

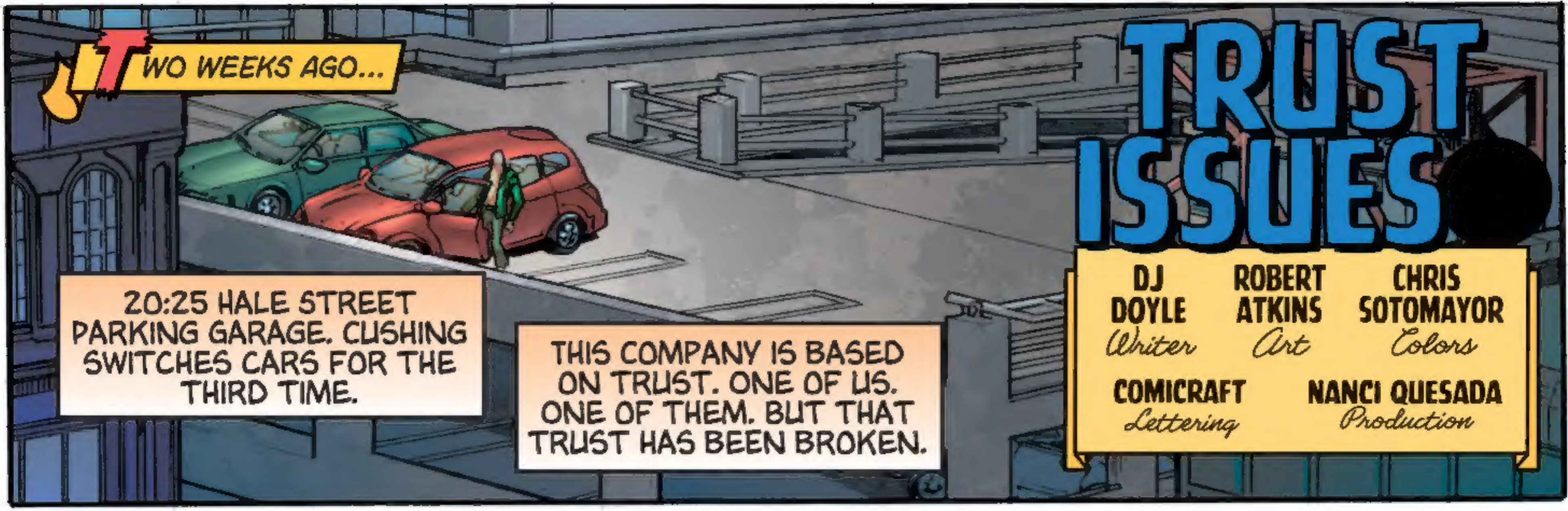
HEROES

CHAPTER 84

TRUST ISSUES

Part 1 of 2

After Donna Dunlap was recruited, by the Company, warnings from the mysterious Evs Dropper convinced her that the only way to survive was to bring the Company down from within. But when she is inexplicably grounded from missions, Donna breaks into the file room to check her personal dossier, only to find Agent Thompson looking at an Isaac Mendez death portrait...of Donna. It seems she isn't the only agent in this company with trust issues...



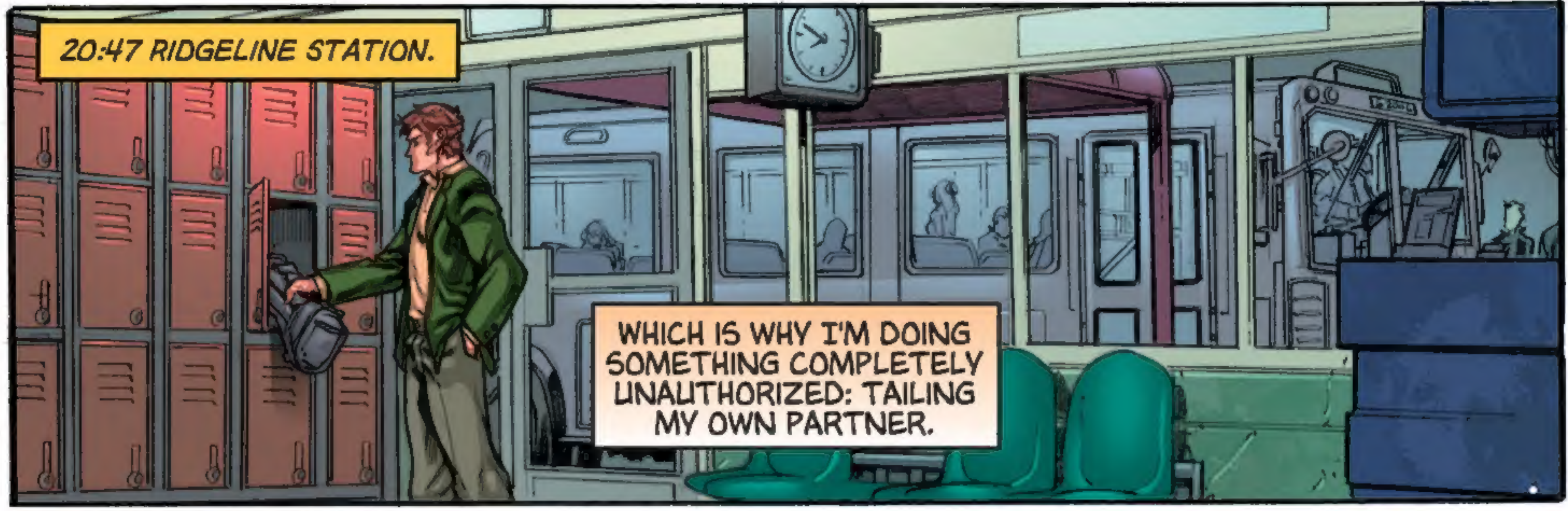
TWO WEEKS AGO...

TRUST ISSUES

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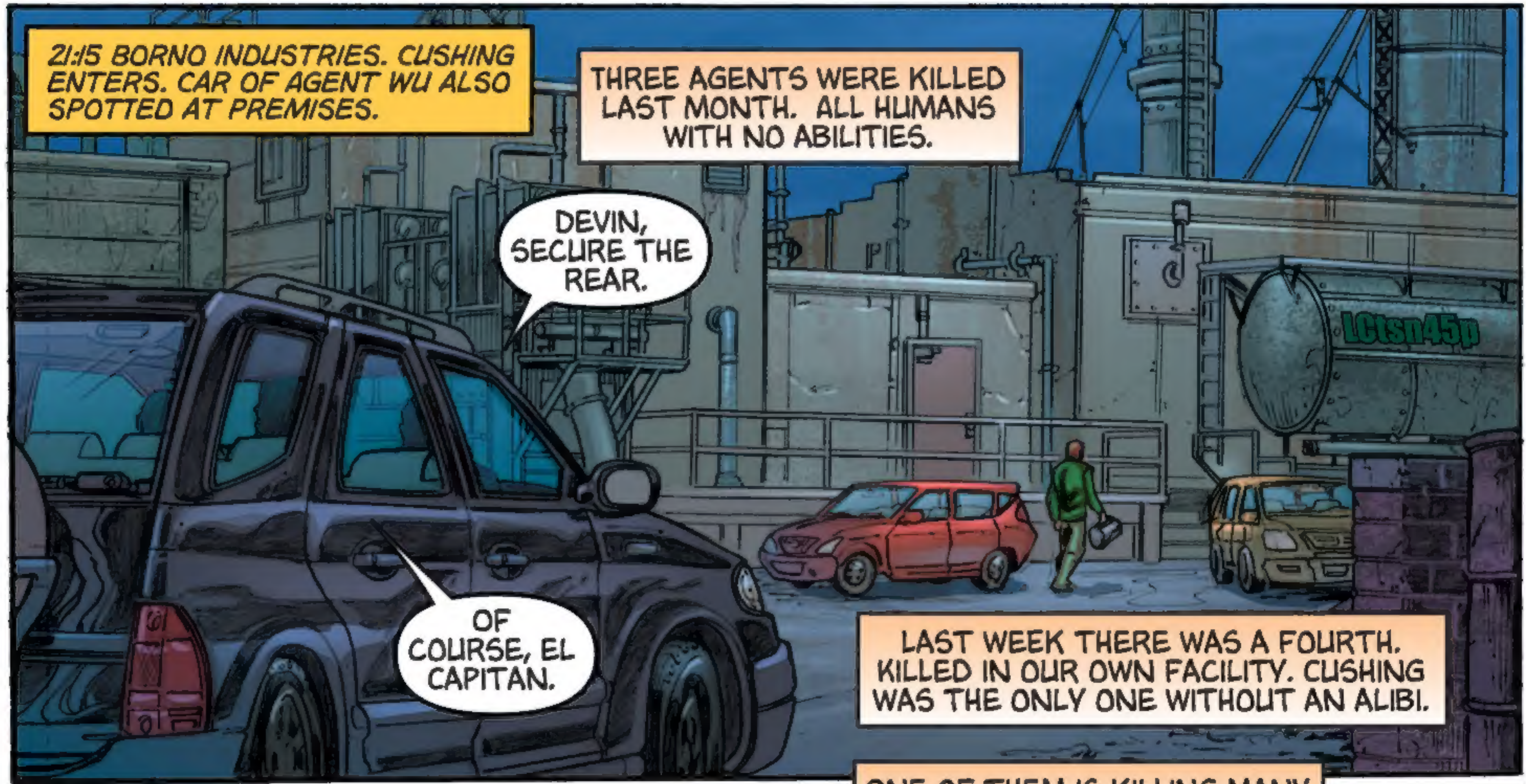
20:25 HALE STREET PARKING GARAGE. CUSHING SWITCHES CARS FOR THE THIRD TIME.

THIS COMPANY IS BASED ON TRUST. ONE OF US. ONE OF THEM. BUT THAT TRUST HAS BEEN BROKEN.



20:47 RIDGELINE STATION.

WHICH IS WHY I'M DOING SOMETHING COMPLETELY UNAUTHORIZED: TAILING MY OWN PARTNER.



21:15 BORNO INDUSTRIES. CUSHING ENTERS. CAR OF AGENT WU ALSO SPOTTED AT PREMISES.

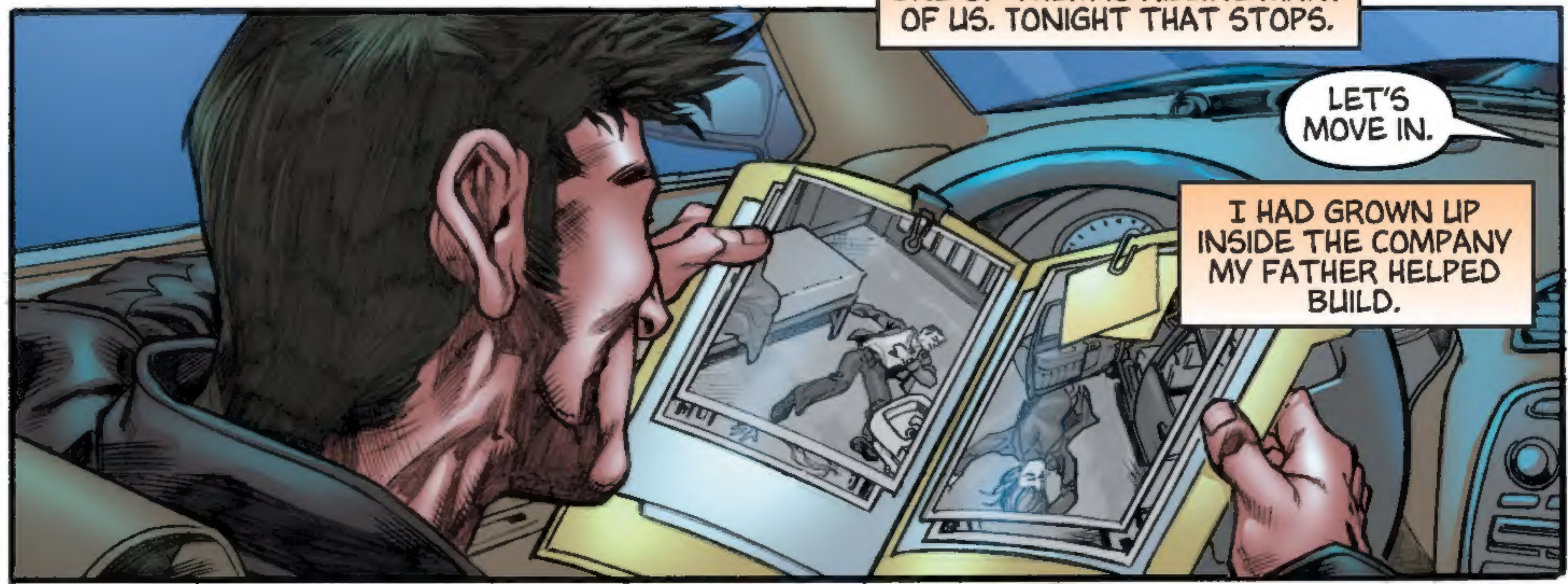
THREE AGENTS WERE KILLED LAST MONTH. ALL HUMANS WITH NO ABILITIES.

DEVIN, SECURE THE REAR.

OF COURSE, EL CAPITAN.

LAST WEEK THERE WAS A FOURTH. KILLED IN OUR OWN FACILITY. CUSHING WAS THE ONLY ONE WITHOUT AN ALIBI.

ONE OF THEM IS KILLING MANY OF US. TONIGHT THAT STOPS.



LET'S MOVE IN.

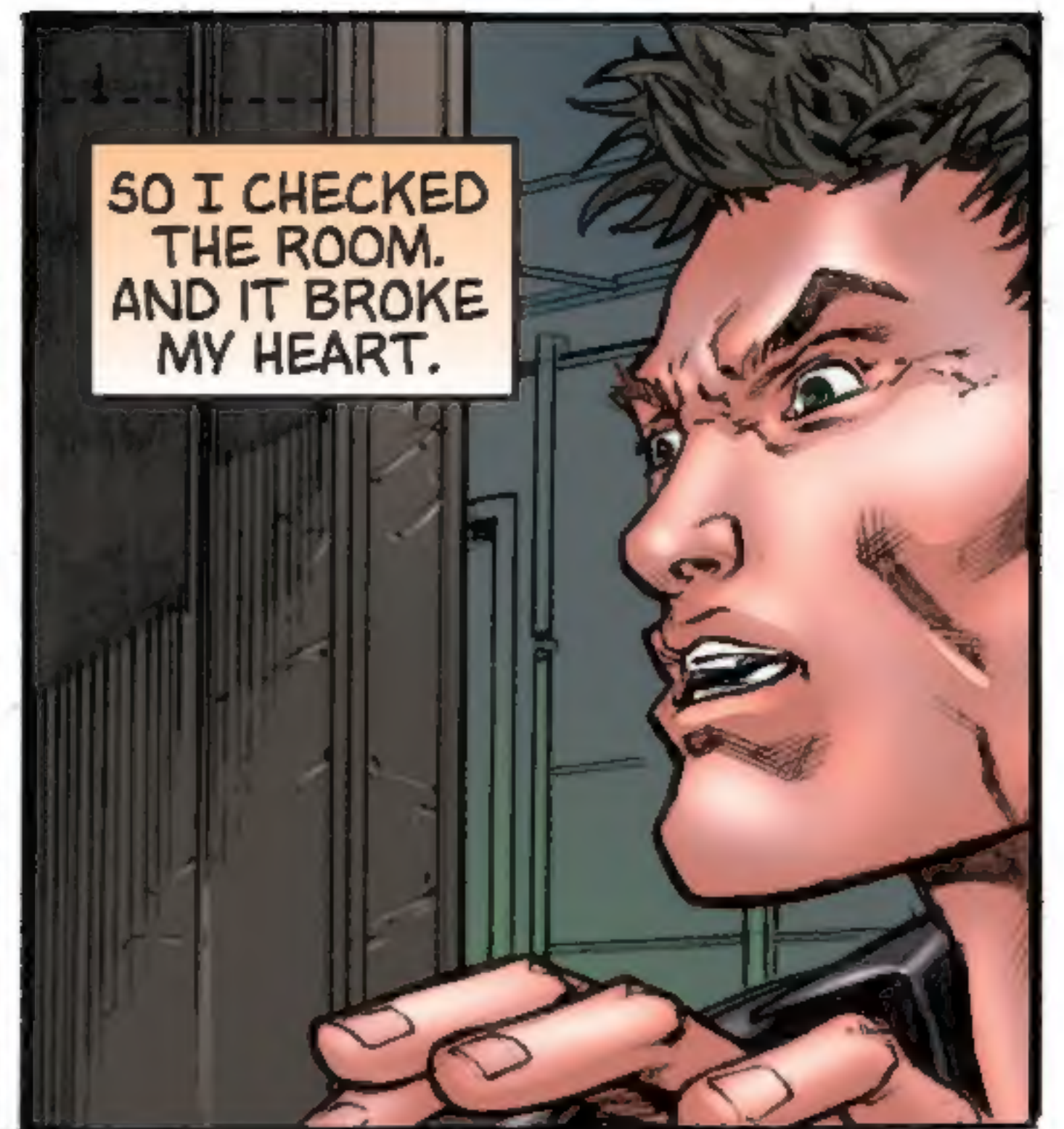
I HAD GROWN UP INSIDE THE COMPANY MY FATHER HELPED BUILD.



AND CUSHING WAS DESTROYING IT.

YOU SEE HIM?

I CAN'T SEE \$*#*. CHECK THAT ROOM.



SO I CHECKED THE ROOM. AND IT BROKE MY HEART.



JAMIE WU. VICTIM FIVE. ONE MORE HUMAN.

YOU SON OF A BITCH!



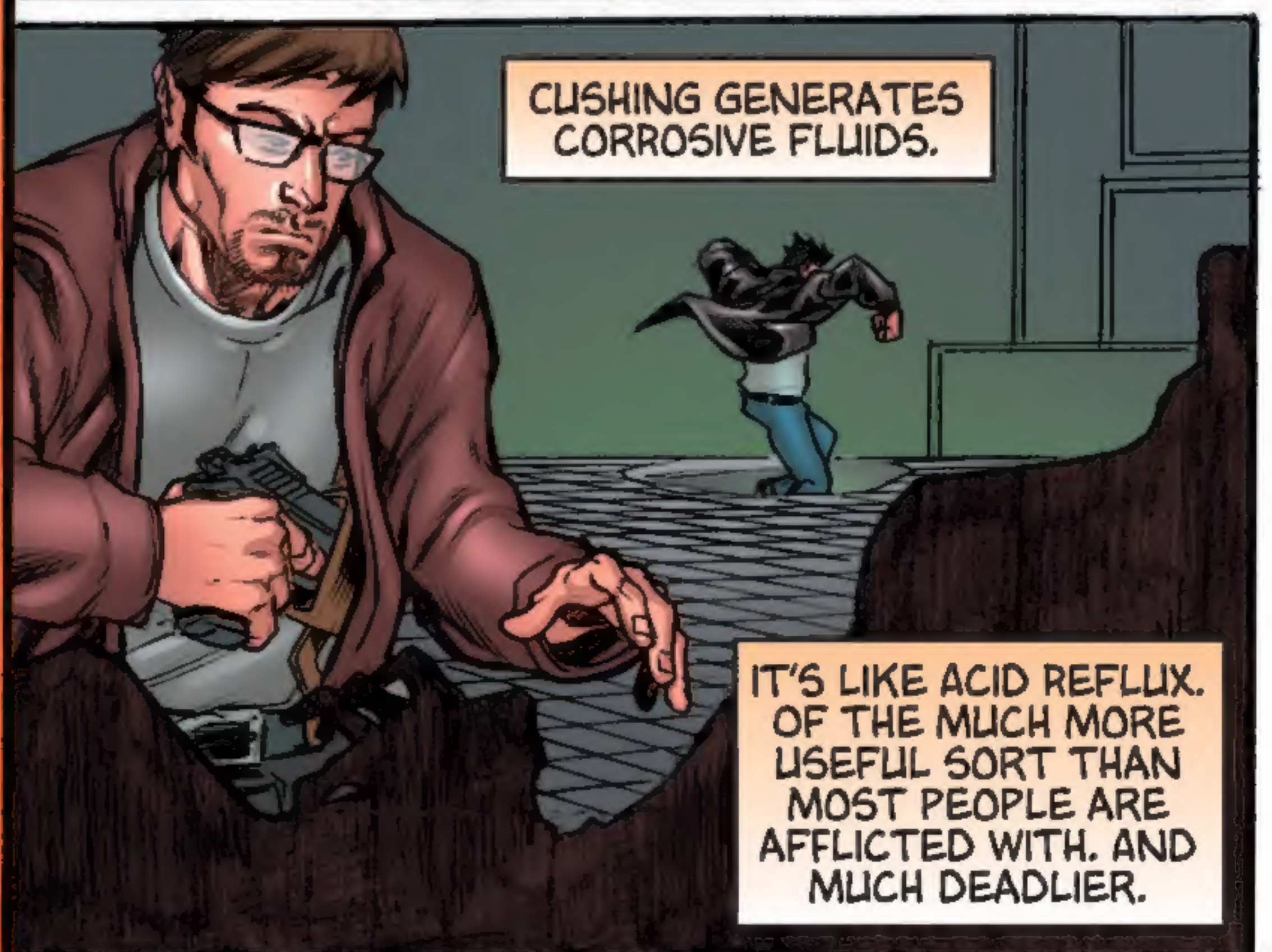
THOMPSON. I DIDN'T DO THIS.

GET YOUR HANDS UP!

COVER HIM, GAE.



AND I SURE AS HELL CAN'T DO THIS!

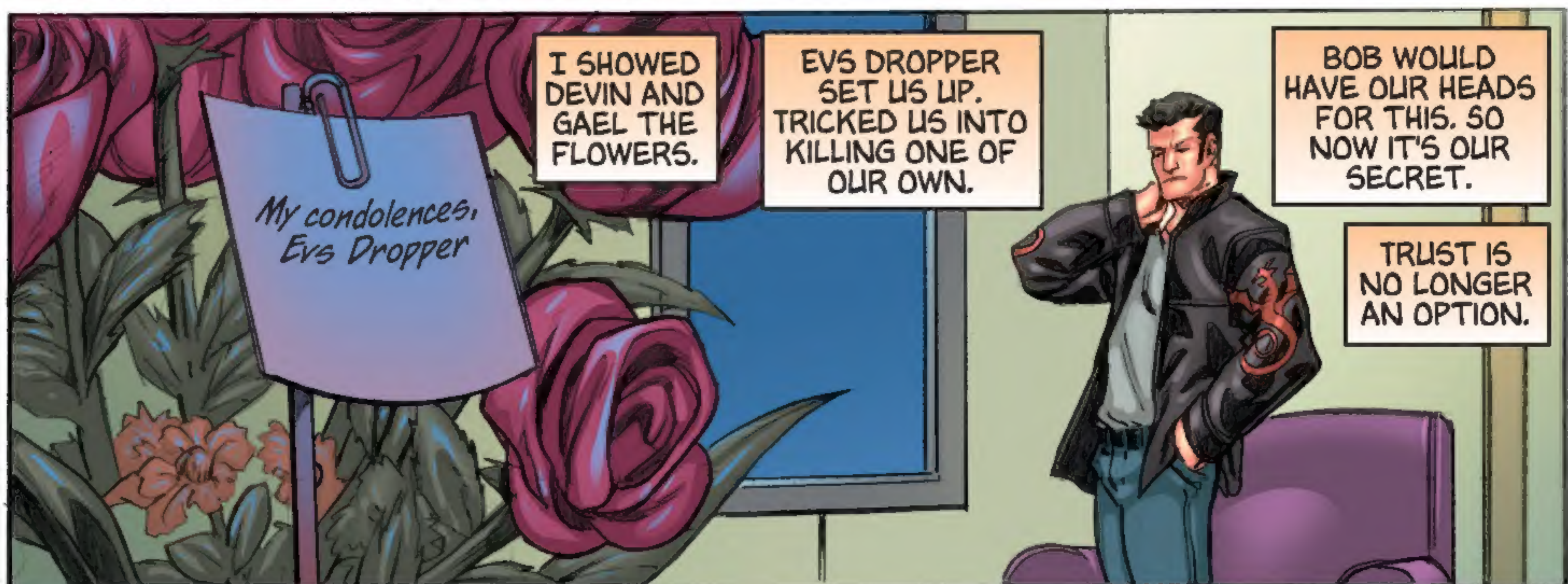
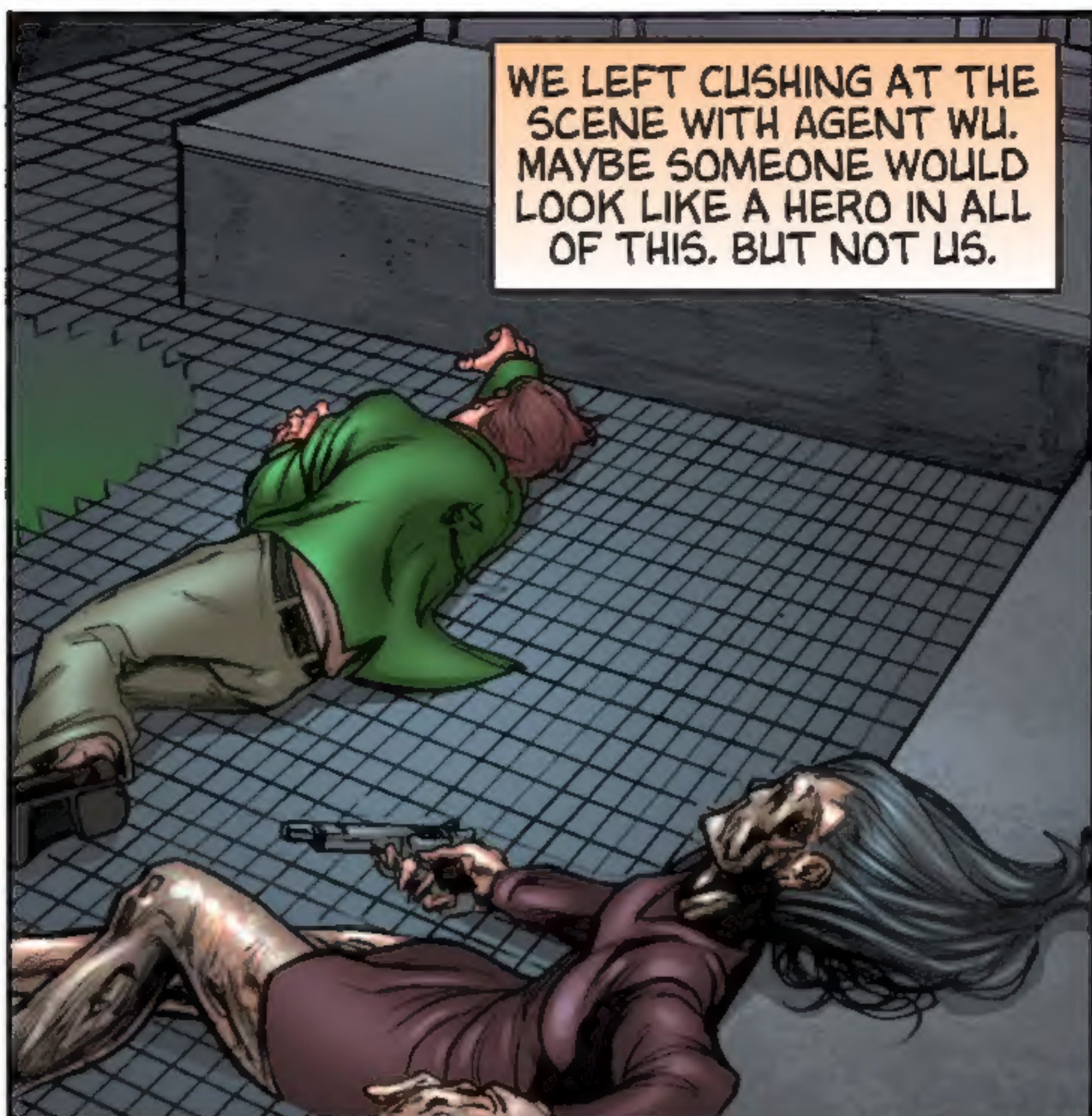


CUSHING GENERATES CORROSIVE FLUIDS.

IT'S LIKE ACID REFLUX. OF THE MUCH MORE USEFUL SORT THAN MOST PEOPLE ARE AFFLICTED WITH. AND MUCH DEADLIER.







TWO WEEKS LATER.

I NEEDED A PARTNER I COULD CONTROL. GAEL HAD ASSIGNED ME DONNA. GOOD. SHE WAS GREEN. BUT I HAD TO KNOW EVERY DARK SECRET ABOUT HER. EVERY POSSIBLE SOURCE FOR BETRAYAL.

OH.

#&*%! STAY COOL. SHE CAN'T KNOW ANYTHING.

YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE IN HERE, DUNLAP.

YOU PROBABLY AREN'T EITHER.

I GUESS WE CAN THROW "GREEN" OUT THE WINDOW.

THERE IS A TERRIBLE GUILT IN KNOWING SOMEONE IS GOING TO DIE BEFORE THEY DO.

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO YOU SEE?

BUT I ALSO WONDER, DONNA DUNLAP, IF IT IS YOUR FATE TO DIE, WILL IT BE AS A HERO?

TO BE CONTINUED...